

And what must have happened, and I'm confessing I'm a little vague on the details here, but what must have happened is that I got their address, and I wrote, because that's what we did in those days. I wrote a letter, didn't even send faxes in those days. I wrote a letter to them saying, "I'm exploring Cordell Bank. It's been suggested that this might be considered as a sanctuary. Are you the right people to tell about this? Would you be interested?" or some generic stimulus like that.

What I got back – well, again, I don't remember the specifics. I remember that it was surprisingly motivating, because the response I got was, "Oh, yes, we are *very* interested in that." It was enthusiasm for that, and it was very quick, a very short time after that that we were exploring with the possibility of nominating this place to be a sanctuary.

I mean, suddenly our vocabulary changed. It was as sudden as when we discovered the holes, and we knew that we were not the first humans ever to see Cordell Bank. Suddenly, we were talking about the sanctuary, and so what I did at some point there was I assembled a short report – I think it was 15 or 20 pages – providing the basic geography as we knew it. It was called "A Preliminary Summary of Knowledge of Cordell Bank," where it is, roughly what's known about it, our species list, the dives that we've done, the history that I knew so far about Edward Cordell and so on.

And apparently it was enough to get them to respond more positively, saying, "Yes, we want to know more about this. Would you consider nominating Cordell Bank to be a sanctuary?" And this came surprisingly quickly. I was amazed, and I felt almost a little empowered, you know. "Whoa, look, I'm affecting something."

My response, as I think I've told you, was, "No, I will not consider nominating Cordell Bank, because we don't know enough about it, and I would not want to" – what's the metaphor? Hamstring? Hogtie? Emasculate? Whatever the verb is – "any such possible nomination by having it not complete," and I was really serious about that.

So they said, “Well, okay. We’ll talk to you later,” and so sometime, I think, in the next year, they contacted me again and said, “Will you nominate Cordell Bank?” I said, “No, I will not. We still don’t know enough,” and at that point they said, “What would you need to learn enough about it to nominate it as a sanctuary?”

Well, I have to take a little credit here. I was together enough to say, “I need money. We need resources. We have so much we can do but not at zero level. If you can fund us at some level – can you?” I didn’t even presume to say, “If you can.” I said something like, “We would need some funding. Are you in that area? Is it possible?” or something like that.

And very quickly they picked it up, and we started negotiating. I think this must have all been done by letters and maybe some phone calls, although I’m not a telephone person. I’m a written document person. And they agreed to provide some funding for us, which they did for two years running. It was about \$15,000, \$17,000 each of two years, I believe, maybe \$12,000 and \$17,000 or something like that, which when it finally came –

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I remember – this is a little selfish. I remember feeling, “Oh, gee whiz. This isn’t as much as I thought it would be.” Of course, I was very grateful for it, but I worked for a – you know, I worked for a national lab, and I was used to spending big bucks to do government business, and I didn’t realize that things like the Sanctuary Program are chronically strapped for money, and so I thought in terms of government programs. And so I kind of expected maybe \$75,000 or something like that.

However,